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versal language has been published by Dr. Ad. Nicolas of La Bourboule, in the Memoirs of the National Society of Agriculture of Angers. This newest language is called *Spokil*. The author's object is to "combiner l'euphoine, la mnemotechnie, l'analogie, l'etymologie, l'idéographie." The following are eight consecutive roots: "Eibo, pocher; Eigm, mucilages, Eign, charbon; Eivl, bourre; Eivr, filament; Eipl, elements ligneux; Eipn, gaz; Eikl, percuteurs." It seems unlikely that 'Spokil' will attain even the temporary vogue of Volapük.

A WEEKLY botanical convention of the botanical workers in New York City, is held at the Museum of the Botanical Garden, on Wednesday afternoons, which is open to all interested persons. Among the subjects which have been presented the following are to be noted: Dwarfs and Nanism in general, by Dr. MacDougal, with an exhibition of dwarf Japanese trees, by Mr. Henshaw; Plants and poisons, by Dr. R. H. True; Spore dissemination in the Sordariaceæ, by Mr. David Griffiths; the Flora of Montana and the Yellowstone Park, by Dr. Rydberg, with an exhibition of new and interesting species from the regions named; and the origin of the leafy sporophyte, by Dr. C. C. Curtis.

IN view of the U. S. Treasury decision relative to free importation of philosophical apparatus and preparations, which is likely to affect seriously the work of educational institutions and the laboratories of research, the Council of the American Chemical Society has voted that the president of the Society be authorized and directed to appoint a committee consisting of fifteen members of the Society, who shall be instructed to consider the present status of the laws and regulations governing the free importation of instruments, apparatus and materials used in research work, and to take such action in the premises in the direction of securing such new legislation or modifications of existing laws and regulations as they may find necessary to the interests of the educational and research institutions.

*Nature* states that letters have been received from Mr. J. E. S. Moore's expedition dated from Ujiji, on Lake Tanganyika, November 12,

1899. The other members of the party had proceeded to the north end of the lake, where Mr. Moore was proposing to join them so soon as the necessary number of porters had been assembled. The expedition had been fairly successful both in collecting zoological specimens from the lake and in studying the geological features of the surrounding district. They had obtained numerous living specimens of the curious forms of mollusca of the lake, besides a good series of fishes and crustaceans. The celebrated jelly-fish (*Limnocyclus tanguiniae*) had been met with in great numbers. Mr. Moore had escaped fever altogether, but most of the other members of the party had had a touch of it.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MR. J. D. ROCKEFELLER has offered to give \$100,000 to Wellesley College on condition that the debt of the college of about the same amount be paid by subscription from the alumni.

THE Tulane University of Louisiana has received a gift of \$50,000 from Mrs. Caroline Tilton to assist in establishing a library in honor of her husband.

THE foundations for a chemical laboratory at Oberlin College have recently been laid. The chemical laboratory at Hobart College is to be enlarged and one of the dormitories will be fitted up for the work in physics, biology and geology.

DR. J. N. LANGLEY will be deputy professor of physiology at Cambridge University for Sir Michael Foster, M.P.

MR. J. H. JEANS of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been elected to the Isaac Newton Studentship in astronomy and physical optics.

MR. H. WOODS, M.A., of St. John's College, has been appointed University lecturer in paleozoology for five years from Michaelmas, 1899.

DR. DRUDE, associate professor of physics at Leipzig, has been called to a full professorship at Giessen.

DR. KÖNIGSBERGER has become docent in physics at Heidelberg; Dr. F. Streintz in electro-chemistry at Göttingen, and Dr. Richard Meyer in chemistry at Berlin.